

Our world has changed a great deal during the course of Mary's life. Since her birth, we have revolutionized air travel and walked on the moon. We have invented the television, cellular phones and the internet. We have fought in wars overseas, seen the rise and fall of Soviet communism and witnessed the birth of new democracies. Mary has lived through eighteen United States Presidents and twenty-six Governors of Iowa. In her lifetime, the population of the United States has more than tripled.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to represent Mary in the United States Congress and it is my pleasure to wish her a very happy 103rd birthday. I ask that my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating Mary on reaching this incredible milestone and wishing her even more health and happiness in the years to come.

HONORING DR. WANDA WILSON,
CRNA, MSN, PhD, CEO OF THE
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF
NURSE ANESTHETISTS

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2017

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, today I pay tribute to Dr. Wanda Wilson, CRNA, MSN, PhD, of Cincinnati, Ohio. Dr. Wilson will soon complete her tenure as the CEO of the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA) whose headquarters are located in my district. I am proud that Dr. Wilson has led the AANA as their CEO and Executive Director since 2009, a job she began after serving as President of the AANA in 2007. She has been an extremely effective leader on behalf of her CRNA colleagues.

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) are advanced practice registered nurses who administer approximately 43 million anesthetics to patients each year. CRNAs practice in every setting in which anesthesia is delivered: traditional hospital surgical suites and obstetrical delivery rooms; critical access hospitals; ambulatory surgical centers; the offices of dentists, podiatrists, ophthalmologists, plastic surgeons, and pain management specialists; and U.S. military, Public Health Services, and Department of Veterans Affairs healthcare facilities.

Prior to her time at the AANA, Dr. Wilson enjoyed a career as the nurse anesthesia educational program director and professor of clinical nursing for the University of Cincinnati's College of Nursing, Nurse Anesthesia Major. The highly regarded Cincinnati program includes a primary clinical site at the University Hospital in Cincinnati, where she maintained her clinical skills while directing the education of 28–32 nurse anesthesia students per year. Dr. Wilson received her doctorate degree in nursing science and physiology and a master's degree in nursing from the University of Cincinnati. She also earned a bachelor's degree in nursing and a bachelor's degree in science from the University of Cincinnati; her nurse anesthesia diploma from Cincinnati General Hospital; and her nursing diploma from Holzer Medical Center in Gallipolis, Ohio.

During her time as CEO of the AANA, Dr. Wilson has been a prominent advocate for pa-

tients, practitioners and students of nurse anesthesia before federal agencies and members of Congress. She has worked tirelessly to promote anesthesia patient safety and the value of CRNAs to our healthcare system, recognition of CRNAs as Full Practice Providers in the Veterans Health Administration (VHA), proper implementation of the provider non-discrimination, and appropriate recognition of the full scope of CRNA practice including pain management and related services in Medicare.

I extend my sincere congratulations to Dr. Wilson today on a job well done. Her service to the AANA, her patients, and her students and her commitment to advancing the nurse anesthetist profession as a leader, educator and advocate are unrivaled.

ANTONIO "TONY" VEGA

HON. DON BACON

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize a leader in the Hispanic, small business community of my congressional district in Omaha, Nebraska. A Nebraska immigrant, Mr. Antonio "Tony" Vega's career of entrepreneurship and mentorship is recognized through his commitment to service and upholding the values of hard work.

Mr. Vega was born and raised in Zapotlán El Grande, a city about 80 miles south of Guadalajara, in Mexico. He was raised by a single mother who considered his education to be her highest priority. She sacrificed greatly for his higher education by immigrating to the United States to earn enough money to pay for Tony's education back in Mexico. Tony also attributes his strong morals, values and work ethic to his grandparents, who influenced him during his childhood. As a result, Tony successfully completed a Bachelor's Degree in Tourism and Travel Management at the Universidad de Guadalajara in 1987.

Following graduation, Tony's first job was with the State of Jalisco tourism agency as the Deputy Delegate, overseeing 16 counties and developing relations with all county dignitaries. He later became the Director of Small Business Development for his hometown of Zapotlán El Grande, where he was the coordinator for the annual festival Feria Zapotlán, which runs during the entire month of October with a variety of cultural activities and national attractions.

In 1994, he immigrated to the United States to reside in San Gabriel, CA. It was there that he met a wholesale leather goods distributor who taught him about Hispanic, small businesses. Mr. Vega worked Monday through Friday at Arambula Hats. During the weekend, he explored ways to develop more efficient shipping routes throughout the Pacific coast from Southern California to Oregon.

Tony came to Omaha, Nebraska in 2000 to work as an administrator at Plaza Latina. Mr. Vega implemented a new management style for retail through an inventive strategy of connecting small businesses in a single retail, one-stop location. His concept was praised by the owners of Plaza Latina, who offered to sell the whole business and building to Mr. Vega along with a 5-year financing deal, requiring

no lawyers be involved. This led Mr. Vega to construct an incubator for a Hispanic, small business. Using the small retail spaces and resources at Plaza Latina, new entrepreneurs had an opportunity to succeed within one community and location.

This concept for small business development caught the attention of Dr. Jonathan Benjamin-Alvarado, a faculty member at the University of Nebraska—Omaha, who wanted to know more about Mr. Vega's modern marketing and business approach. Dr. Benjamin-Alvarado brought the University of Nebraska's College of Business' students from all campuses to experience his business concept. This partnership was the initial catalyst that led to the success of the many businesses that Tony helped.

In 2005, the Hispanic business community in South Omaha started to take off and the first major bank moved into the area. First National Bank of Omaha broke ground on a new Spanish-speaking branch, solely focused on Hispanic clients and businesses along the 24th Street corridor. This would eventually become the main financier in South Omaha. The move by the bank was initially received with reluctance by local Latino business. However, due to the quick actions of Mr. Vega, seven core businesses gathered for a meeting at Guacamaya Restaurant on the 2nd of March. Mr. Vega proposed the local Hispanic Business Community integrate with the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (USHCC).

On April 7, 2005 by unanimous vote, Mr. Vega's Hispanic Business Group became a member of the USHCC and grew from 7 Hispanic businesses to 28 in their first month. Tony became the first President of the Nebraska Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and held the position for the first 3 years. He paved the way for the current business model of incubating, developing and empowering small business success.

Today, Mr. Vega is the owner of Factor Latino magazine. Published monthly in Spanish, it is catered to the Latino and Hispanic business community leaders in Nebraska. An avid fan of Mexican Lucha Libre (Wrestling) since childhood; he is the founder and President of Midwest Mexican Wrestling. Additionally, he created TV Latina Nebraska to serve the online Latino community. It is a platform that provides coverage on local politics, community support programs and leaders within the Hispanic community in Omaha.

Mr. Vega is happily married to the love of his life, Eliana Ortiz since 1992. He is a father to three boys: Braulio, Omar and Nicolás, and two girls: Jessica and Grecia. His everyday passions include communications, road trips, Mexican wrestling and hosting gatherings of friends and family. I am proud to recognize all of Mr. Vega's accomplishments and am confident that he will continue to inspire and enhance the Hispanic, small business community in Nebraska.

FULBRIGHT SCHOLARS

HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, July 28, 2017

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor four northeast Georgians